

Council Connection

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

empowerment • opportunity • inclusion

June 2014

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DID YOU KNOW?



3 million

If Americans with disabilities voted at the same rate as the rest of the population, there would have been 3 million more votes cast in the 2012 election?

[Source](#)

Primary Election Early Voting



All MD early voting centers are accessible to voters with disabilities.

[Accessibility and voting](#)

[Early voting June 12 - 19](#)

"A Picture is Worth a 1,000 Words" CONGRATULATIONS to the Council's Sibling Photo Contest winner for **FAN FAVORITE**

4900 people viewed the photos on the Council's Facebook page competing for Fan Favorite. Kristy Wright's photo of sons, Russell & Aidan, collected the most votes to win the title and \$100.



"He ain't heavy, he's my brother."

This is my son Russell, 15, holding my son Aidan, 7 who lives with autism. Aidan is very resistant to touch but his brother holding him he just melts into a smile. Even though Russ is a too cool teen he allows Aidan, who can be a handful at times, to hang in his room and watch TV or play video games. Russ accepts and loves Aidan for who he is every day.

~ Submitted by Kristy Wright, Anne Arundel County

Primary Elections June 24th!

Where do Primary Candidates stand on disability related issues?



Gubernatorial Candidates Forum



Registration is open for the 2014 Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on Disability Issues

When: October 9, 2014
Where: The National Federation of the Blind

For more information, visit [MDforum](#)

Endorse the Six by 15 Campaign!



The Six by 15 campaign is a national partnership with six goals for the disability community to achieve between now and the end of 2015.

Visit the [website](#) to learn more.

Follow us on 

Visit Website

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The Maryland Civil Rights Coalition (MCRC), is a statewide cross-disability coalition with 24 member organizations (including MDLC). MCRC is united in principles set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead decision, which states that people with disabilities have the right to be integrated into community life.

MCRC asked each Democratic & Republican candidate for MD Governor or Attorney General a single question...

"Please describe the specific actions you would take, if elected, to improve the lives of Marylanders with disabilities"

To view the candidate's answers, visit [Insight on Disability](#)

Save-the-Date for Summer Events

Sibling support, Public comment, ADA celebration & more...



JUNE 14th

Second Adult Sibling Forum

Adult siblings of people with disabilities are encouraged to attend the next forum sponsored by the newly forming adult Maryland Sibling Support Network. Come and learn more--there's no commitment! The event is FREE but registration is required. For more information and to register, [2nd Sibling Forum](#)

JUNE 16th

Public Input Needed

Don't miss your chance to speak out at a public meeting on Community First Choice & the Community Options Waivers. If you receive Long-term Services and Supports and are concerned about recent changes in your plan of service, or if you are a family member, Personal Assistance provider or Supports Planner, please speak out and let your voice be heard. For more information, [Meeting flier](#)



JUNE 24th - 25th

Sibling Training by Don Meyer

MSDE, Parents' Place and the MD DD Council announce a FREE Sibling Issues and Sibshop Facilitator Training. For more information and to register, [Sibling training](#)

JULY 26th from 1:30-4:30

ADA 24th Anniversary Celebration

All are invited to attend the 24th Anniversary Celebration of the ADA. Event will be held at the Cultural Arts Center at Montgomery College Takoma Park / Silver Spring Campus. [Directions & parking](#)

August 3rd thru 5th

Reinventing Quality Conference 2014

The conference, held in Baltimore MD, showcases best practices in person-centered supports from across the nation. For more information, including a list of conference topics, visit [Reinventing Quality](#)



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